



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,606	06/12/2006	Georg Schneider	WI.2344 PCT-US	2801
7590 Douglas R Hanscom Jones Tullar & Cooper P O Box 2266 Eads Station Arlington, VA 22202				
05/22/2008				
EXAMINER				
HINZE, LEO T				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2854				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/22/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/582,606

Applicant(s)

SCHNEIDER ET AL.

Examiner

LEO T. HINZE

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 68-132 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 68-132 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group 1, claim(s) 68, 69, 75, 94, and 130-132, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket having a metal support plate;

Group 2, claim(s) 68, 70, 71, 75, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket having a coating wherein the coating is rubber;

Group 3, claim(s) 68, 72, 75, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket wherein said coating has a ground surface;

Group 4, claim(s) 68, 73, 75, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket wherein said printing blanket has a blanket length said depression has a depression width;

Group 5, claim(s) 68, 74, 75, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket wherein said depression is dimensionally stable;

Group 6, claim(s) 68, 81, 82, 75, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket wherein said depth is between 0.2 mm and 0.3 mm;

Group 7, claim(s) 68, 83, 75, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket wherein said depression has a sweep of 0 mm to 1 mm;

Group 8, claim(s) 68, 84, 74, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket wherein said depression has a depression width of 3 mm to 8 mm;

Group 9, claim(s) 68, 75, 76, 94, and 95, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket including providing a die and using said die for stamping-in said depression;

Art Unit: 2854

Group 10, claim(s) 68, 75, 77, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket including forming said depression prior to applying said printing blanket to the transfer cylinder;

Group 11, claim(s) 68, 75, 78, 94, and 96, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket including providing an upper die and a lower die and using said upper die and said lower die for forming said depression;

Group 12, claim(s) 68, 75, 94, and 97, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket including deforming said coating;

Group 13, claim(s) 68, 75, 79, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket including forming said depression in said support plate prior to applying said printing blanket to the transfer cylinder;

Group 14, claim(s) 68, 75, 80, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket including applying said coating to the support plate and deforming said support plate after applying said coating;

Group 15, claim(s) 68, 75, 85, 86, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket including providing said transfer cylinder depression by cutting a barrel of the transfer cylinder;

Group 16, claim(s) 68, 75, 85, 87, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket including providing an underlayer on the transfer cylinder and forming said transfer cylinder depression in said underlayer;

Group 17, claim(s) 68, 75, 88, 89, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket including arranging said depressions in said two axially arranged printing blankets;

Group 18, claim(s) 68, 75, 90-92, and 94, drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket including providing four of said printing plates in an axial direction of said plate cylinder;

Group 19, claim(s) 68, 75, 90, 93, and 94 drawn to a printing blanket and a method of making a printing blanket including providing a dampening system and assigning said dampening system to said plate cylinder;

Group 20, claim(s) 98 and 99, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein two of said printing blankets are arranged side-by-side in an axial direction of said transfer cylinder;

Group 21, claim(s) 98 and 100, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said depression extends in an axial direction of said transfer cylinder;

Group 22, claim(s) 98, 101, and 112, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said coating includes first and second coating ends and wherein said depression in a groove centered between said first and second coating ends;

Art Unit: 2854

Group 23, claim(s) 98, 101, 116, and 117, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said rubber coating is a multi-layer rubber material;

Group 24, claim(s) 98, 101, and 118, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said coating has a ground surface;

Group 25, claim(s) 98 and 102-104, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said ink-repelling material includes silicon;

Group 26, claim(s) 98, 102, 103, and 105, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said upper layer is discontinuous;

Group 27, claim(s) 98, 102, and 106, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said upper layer overlies said lower layer in areas of a print image not to be printed;

Group 28, claim(s) 98, 107, and 108, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said depression is parallel to a longitudinal axis of said transfer cylinder;

Group 29, claim(s) 98 and 109, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said depression is a groove formed in said printing blanket;

Group 30, claim(s) 98, 110, and 111, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein a depth of said groove is between 5% and 10% of a thickness of said coating;

Group 31, claim(s) 98 and 113, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said depression has a depression width and said printing blanket has a printing blanket length, both in a circumferential diameter of said transfer cylinder, said depression width being 0.1% to 1.0% of said printing blanket length;

Group 32, claim(s) 98, 114, and 115, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said metal support plate is steel;

Group 33, claim(s) 98 and 119, drawn to a printing group of a printing press including an underlayer between said printing blanket and said circumferential surface of said transfer cylinder, said underlayer including an underlayer depression;

Group 34, claim(s) 98 and 120, drawn to a printing group of a printing press including a plurality of said printing blankets arranged axially side by side on said transfer cylinder;

Group 35, claim(s) 98 and 121, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein each said waterless planographic printing plate extends axially the length of said plate cylinder;

Group 36, claim(s) 98, 122, and 129, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said plate cylinder includes plate end receiving openings aligned in an axial direction of said plate cylinder;

Group 37, claim(s) 98 and 123, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein a size of each said waterless planographic printing plate corresponds to a newspaper page;

Art Unit: 2854

Group 38, claim(s) 98 and 124-127, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said heat carrier circulating conduits are adapted to receive a fluid; and

Group 39, claim(s) 98, 124, and 128, drawn to a printing group of a printing press wherein said temperature control means senses a circumferential speed of said at least one of said plate cylinder and said transfer cylinder.

2. The inventions listed as Groups 1-38 do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: a lack of unity has been established *a posteriori*, as evidenced by the indication of "X" references in the International Search Report for the related PCT application PCT/EP04/53457. An "X" reference establishes lack of unity by providing evidence that the independent claims do not contain any common features that define a contribution over the prior art.

3. Claims 68, 75, and 94 link(s) inventions 1 through 19. Claim 98 link(s) inventions 20 through 39. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is **subject to** the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 68, 75, 94, and 98, respectively. Upon the indication of allowability of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions **shall** be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise requiring all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be rejoined and fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104 **Claims that require all the limitations of an allowable linking claim** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

Applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, the allowable linking claim, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Art Unit: 2854

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEO T. HINZE whose telephone number is (571)272-2864. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on 571.272.2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Leo T. Hinze

/Anthony H Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art

Unit 2854

Patent Examiner

AU 2854

14 May 2008

